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contemplates a session of three full days, with the affiliated societies' meeting in the forenoons and the general sessions in the afternoons.

Arrangements are being made for participation on the part of the Ecological Society in a symposium on the Fisheries of the North Pacific Coast, with the Western Society of Naturalists and the Pacific Fisheries Society. This symposium will be held Thursday afternoon, June 17. It is planned, also, to hold a joint session with the Western Society of Naturalists for the reading of papers of general ecological interest, and, if the number of titles submitted is sufficient, an additional meeting of the Ecological Society will be held. Excursions to points of interest will probably be arranged for Saturday, June 19. It is hoped that the attendance of members residing in the western states and of others who are able to be present will be large, and that the meeting may be a successful one.

Members who wish to present papers should send titles to the Secretary as soon as possible. Titles should, if possible, be accompanied by a brief abstract of the paper, and a statement as to time required and facilities needed for the illustration of the paper.

PRESERVATION OF NATURAL AREAS

The Ecological Society has been offered an unusual opportunity to serve biological science. The Executive Committee of the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council has had under consideration the matter of reserving natural areas for biological study, and has voted to refer it to the Ecological Society. The Committee on the Preservation of Natural Areas for Ecological Study, and Committee on Cooperation of the Society considered the problem and presented a report to the National Research Council.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

The following letter indicates the attitude of the National Research Council toward scientific societies. Any suggestions for matters to be brought before the Council will be welcomed.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL,
WASHINGTON, D. C.,
March 22, 1920

Dear Doctor Moore:

According to word recently received from Doctor Weese, Secretary of the Ecological Society of America, there has been appointed a committee on cooperation to work with the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council. I wish to express my pleasure and satisfaction in this action of your Society and also the hope that through our combined efforts we may accomplish much good for the subject of ecology in this

country. Several of the societies have for some time had such relations with our Division and already the experience has been helpful and promises to develop into one of our best means for promoting our efforts. The fact that the National Research Council is constituted through the medium of our national societies makes our progress dependent upon the strength and activity of these organizations. It is to the interest of our sciences, therefore, that we bring to the solution of our problems the combined and coordinated efforts of all available agencies.

We shall accordingly hope to have from your committee any suggestions that recommend themselves and will desire to refer to you for advice such matters concerning ecology and related sciences as require expert attention. We would particularly wish your consideration of the larger and more fundamental questions which demand solution before we can make satisfactory progress in meeting the enlarged responsibilities and opportunities which the war has left us. Will you be kind enough to bring these matters to the attention of the other members of your committee and see that they are informed regarding the organization and activities of the National Research Council? We have sent them general information about the Council but they should be fully informed in relation to the particular aspects which concern ecology.

With the earnest hope that we may reasonably meet these tests upon our fitness through cooperative action, I am

Sincerely yours,

C. E. McCLUNG, *Chairman,*
Division of Biology and Agriculture.

SCIENTISTS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

The Congressional Joint Commission on Reclassification of Salaries, created over a year ago, submitted its report, a large volume of more than 1000 pages, to Congress on March 12, 1920.

The report furnishes conclusive evidence that employment conditions in the Federal Government are at present more or less chaotic. Compensation for the same character of employment varies widely, and Government workers in general are much underpaid as compared with those in similar work elsewhere. These conditions have resulted in a steadily increasing flood of resignations, particularly in the scientific-technical force, which has seriously impaired the efficiency and threatened the integrity of the entire service.

The rate of separations, or personnel turnover, in the Government service in Washington has increased from 5.5 percent in 1904, to 11.4 percent in 1916, and to 50 percent in 1919, the most conspicuous advances being among the scientific and technical employees. In the Bureau of Standards the rate of increase in the turnover among the scientific employees jumped from 28